

programs aimed at providing universal access to voluntary family planning information, education and services can ensure world population stabilization at 8 billion or less rather than 12 billion or more. Now, therefore, I Tommy G. Thompson, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim the week of October 25-31, 1998 as World Population Awareness Week, and urge citizens of the State to take cognizance of this event and to participate appropriately in its observance. ●

#### TRIBUTE TO FRANKIE YANKOVIC, AMERICA'S POLKA KING

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, on October 15th, America lost its reigning Polka King, and Wisconsin lost a beloved friend: Frankie Yankovic.

From the day he debuted in the Milwaukee area at Bert Phillips Ballroom in Menomonee Falls, Frankie Yankovic has had a special place among Wisconsin's polka fans. Wisconsinites loves to polka, so much so that it's our state's official dance. And no polka musician has won more accolades, had more devoted fans, or taught more Americans to love that simple dance than Frankie Yankovic.

While he was born in West Virginia and was a long-time resident of Cleveland, Frankie Yankovic felt a special connection to Milwaukee. "I should have come here and made Milwaukee my hometown," he once said. There is nothing we'd have liked better, but Wisconsinites were lucky for the many chances we've had to enjoy Yankovic's music, and to pay tribute to his myriad achievements in the music world.

In fact, it was in Milwaukee that Yankovic was crowned as America's Polka King in 1948. Just one year later, his "Blue Skirt Waltz" hit number two on Columbia Records' bestseller list, just behind Gene Autry's "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," one of the best-selling records of all time. He was the first inductee to both the Polka Hall of Fame in Minnesota in 1988 and the Wisconsin Polka Hall of Fame in 1996.

Yankovic didn't just contribute to popular music, he revolutionized it by infusing traditional polka music with a smoother style, and introducing new instruments, such as the bass fiddle, to polka arrangements.

Throughout his career, Yankovic's singular style energized audiences. His compositions were legendary, including such Wisconsin-inspired tunes as the "Kringleville Polka," about Racine, and "There's No Joy Left Now in Milwaukee," about the Braves leaving for Atlanta.

Yankovic was a man who made audiences roar and floors shake as he brought capacity crowds to their feet to do that simple step that just, as Yankovic put it, "makes people happy." He often rallied audiences by asking "What do you think this is, a concert? Let's get up and dance!"

Milwaukeeans know that Frankie Yankovic was loved coast to coast, appearing on Johnny Carson and performing with the likes of Milton Berle and

Doris Day. And we know that Cleveland was his permanent address. But in Wisconsin, we proudly count him as one of our own. "I love Milwaukee," he often said, and Milwaukee loved him back. On behalf of the people of Wisconsin, I thank Frankie Yankovic for the happiness he brought to Wisconsin's polka fans over the years, and I pay tribute to his memory. ●

#### CONGRESS AGAIN FAILS TO CLEAN UP BROWNFIELDS

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I very much regret that once again—for the 3rd Congress, that's six years—the Congress has refused to take action on brownfields legislation because of unrelated and very controversial issues related to the Superfund program.

As I have for three Congresses, on the very first day of the 105th Congress, along with ten other Senators, I introduced S. 18, a bill to encourage brownfields revitalization efforts. Brownfields are abandoned, or idle, former industrial properties which may or may not be contaminated. Brownfields exist in cities, suburbs and rural areas. Their reuse can result in badly needed jobs and significant revenues along with environmental cleanup of hundreds of thousands of communities across the country. One section of S. 18 established an exemption from potential Superfund liability for developers who clean up brownfields but had nothing to do with any contamination that might be present. These provisions merely clarified that Congress did not intend the specter of Superfund liability to deter the purchase and redevelopment of brownfields properties. This simple clarification has long enjoyed broad-based, bipartisan support.

Mr. President, on November 7, 1997, I also introduced S. 1497. This bill is in some ways analogous to the brownfields bill, in that it provides an exemption from Superfund liability for homeowners, small businesses, and non-profit organizations which sent only municipal solid waste to Superfund sites.

Mr. President, S. 1497 was, so to speak, dedicated to Barbara Williams, and all those like her, who got caught up unfairly in a litigation web that the Congress never intended when Superfund was written. Barbara Williams is the owner of Sunny Ray Restaurant. Ms. Williams was sued and asked to pay for cleanup of a Superfund site, though she only disposed of mashed potatoes and other restaurant waste at that site. She has testified before the Environment and Public Works Committee twice.

Mr. President, I find it appalling that this woman was stuck in a Superfund lawsuit, brought by industries that had polluted the site but did not want to pay to clean up their mess. S. 1497 included a provision clarifying that Congress did not intend parties such as homeowners, pizza parlor owners, or girl scouts—that disposed only of

household, or household-like trash—to be subject to suit under Superfund. Like brownfields liability exemptions, these exemptions for innocent parties enjoy broad, longstanding, bipartisan support.

Mr. President, this is the third consecutive Congress we have negotiated comprehensive Superfund reform, but failed to pass legislation. In the 103rd Congress, the Committee marked up a comprehensive Superfund reform bill that boasted unusually broad-based support, and reported it out on an 13:4 vote. But for reasons which had little to do with Superfund, for reasons that were blatantly political, the bill was not enacted into law. In the 104th Congress, consensus evaporated, and the Republican Majority introduced comprehensive reform bills that can only be described as extreme. In the 105th Congress, the parties got closer, yet, despite the hundreds of hours of work by our staffs, did not get close enough. I personally spent weeks negotiating painstaking details of this complex statute. But unfortunately, rather than resolve remaining differences, the Committee elected to proceed to a partisan mark-up. Indeed, it reported its Superfund bill, S. 8, almost entirely along party lines, with the vote on final passage at 11:7.

Mr. President, the Committee may or may not take up comprehensive reform again in the 106th Congress. Given GAO's August, 1998 report finding that EPA has already selected remedies at 95% of non-federal Superfund sites, I question whether this effort is at all worthwhile. But the battle lines are beginning to be drawn. It is reported that some are urging industry to spend as much as did the tobacco industry—some \$40 million—to have their way.

But while my Republican colleagues persist in an all or nothing strategy, I urge that this body be cognizant of the price exacted by this approach. This posture essentially takes our nation's cities and small businesses as hostages in a war over Superfund. And the consequences are very real.

The nation's Mayors estimate they lose between \$200 and \$500 million a year in tax revenues from brownfields sitting idle, and that returning these sites to productive use could create some 236,000 new jobs. They, as well as developers and bankers, say immediate action is imperative, since new tax laws provide incentives for brownfields redevelopment, but expire in 2001. In short, the window is narrow during which brownfields reform will make any difference at all. Each day Congress fails to act on brownfields liability, it deprives our cities of unique redevelopment opportunities.

And as for municipal solid waste, as Mrs. Williams testified, neither her lawyer's fees nor her settlement costs are covered by insurance, nor are they business expenses she can deduct. She must make enough money to pay these penalties on top of her other bills and her payroll. Each day Congress fails to